

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: MILI, MASS, CA, NATO, EAIR, ETRD, EIND

SUBJ: GOC AGAIN POSTPONES DECISION ON ARGUS AIRCRAFT

REF: OTTAWA 2771

1. OTTAWA JOURNAL COLUMNIST JACK BEST IN ITEM PUBLISHED
JULY 25 REPORTED THAT "REPLACEMENT FOR ARGUS PUT OFF AGAIN."

2. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE GOC "HAS POSTPONED MAKING ITS
CHOICE OF A NEW LONG-RANGE PATROL AIRCRAFT FOR THE
CANADIAN ARMED FORCES.....RELIABLE SOURCES SAID.....THE
DECISION HAS BEEN PUT OFF FOR THREE MONTHS TO ALLOW MORE TIME
FOR CONSIDERING THE RIVAL BIDS OF LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT CORPORATION
AND THE BOEING CORPORATION." BEST DESCRIBES THE DEAL AS THE
"BIGGEST PEACETIME MILITARY TRANSACTION" WITH ESTIMATE OF COST
UP TO DOLLARS ONE BILLION. BOTH LOCKHEED AND BOEING HAVE
AGREED TO EXTEND THEIR PRICE OFFERS, WHICH WERE TO
HAVE BEEN GOOD UNTIL AUG 2, FOR THE ADDITIONAL TIME
REQUIRED. THE DEHAVILLAND-7 AND OTHER COMPETITORS HAVE
ALLEGEDLY BEEN ELIMINATED FROM THE BIDDING CONTEST.

3. COMMENT: ONE REASON FOR THE NEED FOR MORE TIME TO
CONSIDER THE BIDS IS PROBABLY CONTINUING GOC
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INDECISION ON ITS DEFENSE REVIEW AND ON THE SIZE OF ITS FUTURE

DEFENSE BUDGET. AS MENTIONED IN REFTEL GOC ALSO FACING THE
PROBLEM OF REPLACING FIGHTER AIRCRAFT. THE ISSUE CAME UP IN
THE HOUSE OF COMMONS WHERE TRUDEAU WAS ASKED WHETHER THERE
WAS ANY VALIDITY TO THE STORIES ABOUT THE DELAY.
TRUDEAU EXPLAINED THAT THE DELAY HAD BEEN REQUESTED
"BECAUSE THE INDUSTRIAL FALL-OUTS AND CONSEQUENCES OF
THE DECISION HAVE NOT YET BEEN CLEARLY ESTABLISHED."
END COMMENT. JOHNSON

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